

A TRUE RELATION

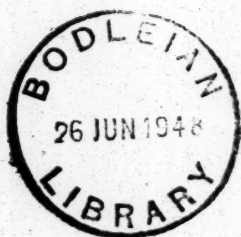
BROUGHT BY THE
Lord of *Buiffon*, and sent by the
French King concerning the defeat of
the Lord *Soubizes* army, his Maiellie
being there in person.

With

THE SVRPRISING OF THE
Castle of *Chaume* about the sands of
Pfonne the 18. of this present month of
Aprill. 1622.



Printed at Paris,
By *Fredericke Morel* the Kings ordinarie
Printer, by authority, and now order-
ly translated.





THE SVRPRI

SING OF MONSIEVR

Soubizes army, and the taking of the
castle of *Chaume*, the King being in the
field in person.



THE King being departed from
Nantes the twelfth of Aprill, deter-
mined to lodge the same night at a
place called *Vielle-Vigne*, distant
five leagues from the same towne:
the next day his Maiestie remoued
three leagues neerer his enemies.

The 14. day hee appointed the generall *Rendezuons*
for his whole Army betweene *Aspremont* and *Com-
minquiers*, befitting places for such a purpose, sen-
ding to the Count *de la Roch-foucault* to bring thither
his forces also, and so vnite them with his Maiesties:
but when his Maiestie was aduertised that the Lord
de Soubize was retired with his troopes or army to-
ward the *Rendezuons* of *Aspremont*, consisting of five
or sixe thousand foote, five hundred horse, three
peeces of great Artillerie, and foure field peeces of
iron, he aduanced forward with a full resoluti-
on, and ardent desire to fight with him, and so came
to a village called *Chalans*: here he was aduised by my
Lord the Prince of *Conde*, that seeing he had sent for
the forces of the Count *de la Roch-foucault* to ioyne

with his troopes, it were not amisse to attend the good houre of their comming together. For the Lord *Seubize* and his armie was lodged within an Iland called *Rye*, very difficult for accesse, and very dangerous to surprize, as hauing onely three or foure streight passages for conduction, wherein two or three men could but march in front.

The fifteenth day of the said month, the King was mounted by three of the clocke in the morning, and with his whole troopes, let forward to the place, where Count *de la Roch-Foucault*, and all his forces attended the Kings appoyntment, with whose pioneers and souldiers, in his owne presence, hee railed three seuerall forts or skonces neare the sayd Iland, and neare the place where the enemy played most with the cannon and defended themselves.

But his Maiestie all on fire, and resolved to goe forward in his enterprise, not regarding what the cannon could doe, and lesse caring what the enemy durst attempt, sent my Lord the Prince of *Conde*, with all the remainder of the Infanterie on foote, and some men of armes to enter vpon the said Iland: but you must consider, that his Maiestie had first appoynted the Lord Marshall *de Vitry*, with the Regiment of his guard to take possession of the place; with whom were accomdanyed the Lordes *Zames*, and *de Murillac* Marshalls of the Campe, who still kept neare the sayd Marshall *de Vitry*, vntill hee had entred the Iland, and taken vp his lodging: then did they quarter themselves. Shortly after, as you haue heard, came Monsieur Prince de *Praslin*, with *Bassompierre* the first Marshall of the field, whose
autho-

authority and endeouours brought all the rest of the horse to ioyne with the sayd Regiment of the guard, who only were first lodged within the Iland: whereupon they prepared themselves readily and with all diligence, to obey their Commanders, but could not doe it so soone, but they were discouered by the enemy, who sent out foure hundred horse to set vpon the Prince of *Condes* forces before the army of the King could approach, and vnite themselves: which when the Prince of *Conde* perceiued, and apprehended, that they were resolute to fight, he retired himselfe a little, and sent with all speede to aduertise his Maiestie what had chanced, and that, if it pleased him, hee might now aduance forward with the rest of his army into the Iland; which the King presently and nobly accomplished, comming to the place where my Lord the Prince was, and so the rest in a manner as soone followed, where his Maiestie was.

This performed, hee tooke present order for two speciall things: the one was to supply the wants of the souldiers with bread; for they had fasted long, and so all that were neare his person had a Donatiue out of his owne store, or if you will, his principall Baker; and the rest had a gratuity from other places: the other was to quarter the horse within the Towne of *S. Iohn de Mons*, some halfe a mile from thence, wherein hee vsed such iudgement and prouidence, that he preuented many mischiefes. For he presently sent to the Count *de la Roche-foucault*, to abandon one part of his quarter, which the same day hee had taken possession of in the presence of his Maiesty, and retire

retire to the Towne of Saint *Giles*, making vse of the same for the better refreshing of his wearied troupes, letting the enemy alone vntill better opportunity. But as this was a doing, the skowtes aduertised his Maiestie, that the enemy prepared themselues to retire to some better security by the Sea; which when the Tide went out, they might well doe, through Foords and Vashes: But the King vnderstanding hereof, sent fīue hundred of the Regiment *de la Bergerie*, vnder the commaund of Captaine *d'Escars*, to garde the places and passages.

Now you must consider, that his Maiceste had endured a tedious trauell, and a kinde of a penance: For he was on horsebacke, from three of the clocke in the morning, to fixe at night, and neuer dismounted, by reason hee was to passe ouer a little Creeke of the Sea, which he could not doe, but at a lowe water, nor was then to be done, vntill hee had his forces together, and thus he was enforced to watch for the Tide, which was not lowe enough till nine of the clocke at night, at which time the foote had a *Rendezvous* appoynted, and a watch-word to attend, and the horse might easily finde a way through the Foords and knowne Vashes of the place. But when it was considered, that the passage for the foote was a quarter of a league from the Foordes of the horse, and that the King, euen in the middest of his iourney standing deepe in the water, had notice, that the foote could not yet goe ouer, as hauing the Sea vp to their neckes, he was aduised by many not to make too much haste, nor passe with his horse alone, lest the

the enemy might take aduantage of the same, and set vpon him not fully provided.

Neuerthelesse his vndanted Maiesty, vniting together his resolution with the generosity of his spirit, & coming to giue way vnto any difficulties in a businesse of such importance, wherein a Princes word was engaged, commaunded forward, and finding the night to be very darke and obscure, welcommed the opportunity, and all alone with his horse ouercame the difficulty being five hundred with the *Voluntiers*, and others, and no more. For you must know, he had left three hundred horse and fifty *Carabins* with Count *de la Roche-foucault*, to garde the reare, and defend the carriages.

By this time was the houre approached that the foote might passe, who when they had founded the channels, quickly aduentured their persons, and made such diligence and speede that they passed ouer in good order. For the Lords *de Bassompierre*, and *de Palsua Frontenac* Master of the Campe with the Regiment of *Navarre* had the *Van* in this businesse, and vsed the discipline of Silence, Patience, Trauell and Obedience: then followed the Regiments of the *Garde*, and *Normandy*, and when they found the water but vp to the girdle-sted, it was a wonder to behold how soone they passed. For within one halfe houre they were quickly embattelled neare vnto his Maiesty, and drawne vp so formally, that the King commended both the Officers and the Souldiers, the one for their martiall knowledge, the other for their submission and readinesse.

By that time all was done, the Sea returned, and the floud came in apace; so that his Maiesty had the

Sea on his right hand, and this passage behind him, wherby there was now no retiring, & the enemy must either fight, or yeeld; which when the King vnderstood, it is rather to be admired, then commended with what courage and direction he proceeded: For when he saw the passages, ouer which his foot came, being siue hundred paces broad, all couered with water, and apprehended the toyle and labour they endured, being, as the Prouerb is, dropping dry, and weary, and wet in their Stations, he roade in amongst them to comfort them. VVhen they againe recollected themselues to cast vp the Kings accounts of his watchings all night, of his wearisomnesse, and trauell, of the danger, in which hee hazarded his person, and of the example, which so many Princes and Nobles gaue them, they quickly recomforted themselues, and assured their Captaines, they would liue and die with their King.

VVhereupon his Maiestie by breake of the day marshalled his army in good order, and concluded to fight, keeping the fields directly, which led to the Crosse of *Vie*, distant, or remote from Saint *Giles* by one arme of the sea, which was now vnpassable. The enemy all this while was acquainted with what was done; and although they seemed much danted and appalled at the Kings approach in such a maner, and knew apparantly, that his anger was so much exasperated against them, that he determined their destruction; yet did they make good semblance, and reasonable exposition. For *Monsieur de Soubize*, and his valiant Lieutenant omitted nothing, wherein the office of a Commaunder was to be shewne, and the seruice of a souldier employed.

But

But all was in vaine : For when the time came of their ioyning and charging together, which was close to the passage directing to *Saint Giles*, the king approached with that fury, and the Pinces followed with such willingnesse, that at the very first shooke, and push of pike, they began to stagger, which was quickly entertained by his Maiestie, and so both horse and foote poured many volleys of shot among them amaine, and neuer left, till their foote were in a manner defeated : for the most part of their horse perceiuing the impossibility of recouering the day, left the foote, and thought to retire to *Rochell*, which when the other companies, not yet fought withall, perceiued; they also made meanes to escape : but the sea preuented their hastinesse, being yet too low, whereby his Maiesties forces followed them all ouer the strands, and had a fearefull execution, when they were thus put to rout. For although many of them seeing this extremitie threw downe their armes, and submitted to mercy, & as many mingled themselves with the kings forces by way of acknowledging his soueraignty : yet were there slaine out-right 500. and diuers hundreds flying into the Marshes and villages were soone put to the sword by the souldiers and pealants.

There were also taken prisoners a thousand, with all the Masters of the campe, Captains and Officers, many Colours or Ensignes surprised, their Canon was violently seized on, three peeces of brasse, and foure of iron, their baggage and carriages were intercepted, and in a word all that they had was spoyled, disordered, and ouerthrowne: yea Monsieur

Soubize himfelfe came into the hands of the Count *de la Roch-foucault*, but escaped vpon a little nagge with much adoe with a 120. horfe onely, who came to *Rochell*, as sorrowfull messengers of this lamentable defeat, but they acquainted with the miseries, and accidents of Fortune, and prepared to endure the stripes of affliction, wrapped vp all together in the bosome of sorrow, and put into the Catalogue of former losses, and Gods indignation, who in his due time would make an end of their griefes, and send them no doubt the comfort of reconciliation with their Prince and Gouvernour.

When the King had thus preuailed the same day or if you will the same night he lodged at *Aspremont*, whither one repaired to aduertise him, that vpon the discouery of the enemies horses about the Foord of the Marshes; he had sent fifty horse or Carbines to keepe them play, amongst whom twelue aduanced so forward, being attended with the light-horse, and followed with other men of armes, and all vpon the Bridle, that comming to an encounter, ten of their enemies were taken, and the rest attempting to saue themselves by flight, were ouertaken by the Pefants, and slaine. This newes brought with it a kinde of security, so that his Maiesty might now take his rest with a little more quietnes, and the souldiers haue the better refreshing, considering there remained no apparent enemy to annoy them; and if any Alarums chaunced, they might quickly bee accommodated; and fresh skouts, and *per dues* let abroad, the ouer-wearied might the better take their repose.

While

While the King refreshed his Army and himselfe at *Aspremont*, he called a Councell of warre to determine his proceedings ; and because he perceiued the businesse of *Rochel* to be dangerous and difficult , he now desisted from so much as a conference concerning it , and onely went about the reducing of this Iland of *Rye* to his obedience : whereupon he sent the Count *de la Roche-foucault*, to besiege the Castell of *Chalme*, or at least to surprize it by Battery or otherwise : he tooke with him three thousand souldiers, and made his other prouision suitable to such a busines : the Castle it selfe was strong, well furnished with souldiers, and now the better prepared, because of them which escaped in the last defeate, & quartred themselues heere round about : yet nothing at this time preuayled against the Kings forces. For they gaue so hot an assault , and seconded one another in such a manner , that they not onely seemed more then they were, but encouraged one another to the preuayling : so that though the enemy made for the time equall opposition , and might haue defended themselues , if they had not beene thus terrified, and exanimated : yet at last in the midst of the fight it was taken about the eighteenth of Aprill , a hundred and fifty men slaine, and foure hundred surprized as prisoners , of those which called themselues , and made, as it were, a new head to intercept the battery, and preuent , as farre as they could , the expugnation.

While this was doing against *Chalme* , the Lord *de Buyers* Lieutenant of the foresaid Count vnderstanding that Monsieur *de Soubize* was returned to-

ward the Iland with the troopes, that had escaped with him, made vp against him, and charged him onely with thirty of the chiefeft Gentlemen, who vpon their shrinking backe, as mistrusting the kings forces to be neerer then they were, tooke thirty of *Soubizes* company prisoners, and returned to the king with the relation of the matter, who next day being the nineteenth of Aprill drew out all his army most Princely equipped and furnished, gloriously to behold, and well marshalled for any enterprife, and this he did in the fight of *Soubize*, who had retired himselfe to a place of security, by reason of the seas coming in, so that for the time it was vnacceffable: and for the time the king ment onely to shew his greatnesse, and strike as it were a terror vpon them, that they might remember themselues, and returne to his obedience.

This done, his Maiesty resolved to march to *Royan* and withall expedition to besiege it: for seeing he was abroad, he would now doe some thing worthy of his labour, paines, presence, trauel, and the endurances of his army which by this time increased, and was great and well appointed: for there accompanied him many Princes and noble Lords: by name the Prince of *Conde*, the Count *Soisons*: my Lord of *Vendosme*: the grand *Prior*, Duke *de Fronfac*, Duke *de Retz*, my Lords the Marshals of *Vitry*, and of *Praslin*, Monsieur *de Scomberg*, the Marquesse of *Courtenan*, the Marquesse of *Nesse*, with many other Lords, and Gentlemen of qualitie, who had not onely done their deuoire in this iourney, but were ready to spend their liues for his Maiestie vpon any occasion.

Fredericke

Fredericke Morel, the Kings ordinary Printer hath
authority from his Maieſty to print this true Relation,
which was ſent from the King himſelfe : with a prohibiti-
on to all other Printers, neyther to print this, nor things
of the like nature, without licence, upon paine of forfei-
ting a hundred pound Paris, and corporall puniſhment
if it be proued, and be convicted.

Published and done this 21. of Aprill
1622. *Stylo nouo.*

Signed

Dr. Baillet.
